

AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE, INC.

Administrative Headquarters Newington, Connecticut 06111

July 1976

To: All ARRL Official Observers

From: ARRL Communications Manager

Subjects: Class V OO
FCC Rule 97.114
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Our folder isn't exactly bulging, this time, so we'll "play it by ear" and let the topics fall as they may.

Class V OO

Even before this new class of OO appointment was announced, some of our present observers got wind of it (after all, they are observers) and made noises like they were opposed to it. So let us tell you a little story.

For quite some time we have felt that there is a need for some kind of self-regulation on the vhf bands. Believe it or not, latest data show that about 40% of our active amateurs are on vhf -- mostly 2 meters, of course, and mostly on repeaters -- but there they are, just the same. The advent of the repeater has greatly enhanced local amateur-to-amateur communication, much of which at one time not too long ago was conducted on 10 meters, or 75. FM gives better voice quality than sideband, even the narrow-band variety used on 2, and is a great deal more versatile for a number of reasons.

But relatively few of our OOs do any observing on 2 meters. The number of vhf observers increased hardly at all as amateurs flocked to the 2-meter repeaters. Some of the operation became "raunchy," to say the least. Repeater operators were able to control it, to some extent, and many became quite strict. Some of them restricted use of the repeater to members only, by one means or another. But this is not really within the traditional "amateur spirit." Wouldn't it be better if we learned how to behave ourselves, and selected some from among us to admonish those who failed to operate within the regulations and accepted codes of ethics? Is the situation likely to improve of its own accord, now that our ranks are being swelled by new licensees coming to us via the Citizens-Band route? All indications pointed to a growing need for a vhf-OO program of some kind.

Well, it developed that we weren't the only ones thinking along this line. At the January Board Meeting, Rocky Mountain Director WØSIN moved "that the Communications Department prepare a program for increased participation of Official Observers in the VHF band, and present it at the July 1976 meeting. But there was no second, so the motion was lost." Why no second? Could have been for several reasons. The most likely (in our opinion) is that Chic had not lined up a seconder before he made the motion, and none of the other directors reacted to it quickly enough. (Parliamentary procedure requires a prompt second before a motion can be put on the floor for discussion.) It may have been that the wording was such as not to receive immediate support. It may have been that no one else liked the basic idea of turning our OOs loose on the repeater gang -- although this hardly seems likely. In any case, the motion received no second and was gaveled down quickly by the chairman, who then asked the communications manager if "he got the message"?

The "message" we got was the need for more attention by observers to vhf. It would have come about sooner or later anyway. This incident merely triggered it. The new "Class V" OO is the result. It will be announced to the fraternity in July QST OpNews.

Our OO appointment structure, like most structures that have evolved over the years, has started to get complicated. Is it unwieldy? Well, we don't think so, but perhaps you do; or perhaps some consider it an undesirable caste system. Actually, it has some inconsistencies we might consider rectifying. Just so we all know what we are talking about, let's run down the various classes of OO briefly:

Class I - Precise frequency measurement. Current definition of "precise" is .5 kHz at 14 MHz, or 36 parts per million. (Note that the current CD Bulletin poll has a question regarding this method of accuracy determination.) This is precise? Maybe not especially so, in today's technology, but close enough for OO purposes. If anybody is off frequency (i.e., out of band or segment) less than this, we presently give him the benefit of the doubt. Don't forget that .5 kHz at 14 MHz is, in terms of parts per million, equivalent to 250 Hz at 7 MHz and 125 Hz at 3.5 MHz. If you are a Class I OO, you should be equipped to give a frequency check within at least that amount of tolerance or better. For the enthusiastic FMT tester, this is child's play. For OO purposes, it is considered to be sufficient -- at present, anyway.

Class II - Same as Class I, except the tolerance is 2.5 kHz at 14 MHz, or 179 ppm. This is called "general" frequency checking. Class II OOs usually don't play with band or sub-band edges, but can indicate approximate frequencies of stations observed.

Class III - These observers are for phone observations, and are the principal users of CD-22 (formerly Form 12). They are more concerned with distortion of modulation, over-modulation, violation of FCC regs in operating and failure to observe commonly-accepted ethical practices. They do not ordinarily send notices for out-of-band or out-of segment operation, although they may if it's obvious enough -- and of course they may also send notices for harmonics and spurious phone emission.

Class IV - These observers are for cw only observations -- such things as clicks, chirps, bad notes, instability, and of course violations of FCC regs regarding identification, etc., and ethics. Why can't a Class IV observe on phone, or for that matter a Class III observe on cw? That's a good question. Maybe the answer is that the average phone operator can't judge a cw signal and the average cw operator can't judge a phone signal. Maybe these two classes should be made one? Nothing to prevent an SCM now from classifying an OO as both III and IV, of course.

Class V - For vhf observation only. This is the only OO class for which a Technician licensee is eligible. Otherwise, the qualifications are exactly the same. That is, League membership, four years experience as a Technician or higher. Can anyone other than a Tech be Class V? Certainly, except for a Novice. But any other class of OO can do vhf observing also, so a general class amateur, for example, might as well apply for a higher class.

Question: Can the higher classes of OO perform the functions of all lower classes? Well, a slight irregularity exists here, but generally speaking the answer is yes. Class I can do it all, Class II can do everything but Class I, and Classes III and IV can do vhf observing. The only exception is that Class III cannot do Class IV observing, and vice versa.

SCMs are requested to look into qualifications of vhf observers and get some action started for more vhf observing, especially on repeaters. If qualified old-timers with General Class and higher licenses are available, fine -- put them to work on vhf. But don't overlook some of your better Techs.

What to look for on repeaters? Qualified OOs should be familiar with the FCC Rules and Regs. This is a basic "must." From time to time, ARRL headquarters supplies all OOs with that part of the License Manual treating regulatory items. However, don't wait for this. Get a copy of the License Manual as part of your stock in trade. It contains not only FCC Rules & Regs, but also basic radio laws and international regulations we are pledged to follow.

Then there are the "do's" and "don'ts" listed in the Repeater Directory. Proper operation on repeaters has some features that are not common with operation on the high frequencies. Since so many amateurs are new to repeater operation, some of them not new amateurs, a friendly and discreet note from an OO will often be gratefully received. SCMs are cautioned to use their best judgment in selecting Class V OOs.

Interpretation of FCC Rule 97.114

There is a long history behind the establishment of this rule, but we won't go into it in detail. Suffice it to say that for decades, dating back to the days of the Federal Radio Commission (1920's and early 30's), the guiding rule was that we don't get paid for what we do on the air as amateur radio operators. If you didn't get paid, and received no material compensation, direct or indirect, paid or promised, then what you did

on the air was perfectly legal insofar as the rules regarding compensation were concerned. Under this interpretation, then, a "business" message was perfectly legal as long as it wasn't your business and you got nothing out of it except the pleasure of handling the communication.

Perhaps this interpretation was too liberal, and this is what caused its downfall. For many years, amateurs fussed over this matter, as well they might have, but the basic interpretation was very simple. You could handle any kind of communication you wished as long as you did it for the fun or satisfaction of it and no other reason.

Thus, the application of the rule was simple and life was relatively easy in those days. Too bad it couldn't have remained so, for there were relatively few amateurs abusing the privilege that this liberal interpretation implied. Was it a case of a few spoiling everything for the many, or was it a case of spontaneous new-looking on the part of the Commission staff? Probably a little of both. In any case, lo and behold, suddenly some proposed rulemaking appeared (Docket 19245) prohibiting any kind of third party communication by ham radio involving compensation to anyone, and any kind of business communication, whether it involved compensation or not. This proposal was purportedly intended as clarification but amounted to considerable restriction over the previous commonly-accepted interpretation. The League opposed it mightily, but Papa knew best and into the regs it went.

But apparently clarification did not result, because now amateurs are fussing over it more than ever. Here are some typical examples:

I heard an amateur placing an order for a pizza on a phone patch. Illegal? Well yes, actually, since you might say that this constitutes facilitating the regular business of the pizza parlor.

Two amateurs were haggling over the price of a rig one wanted to sell the other. Illegal, eh? Well, perhaps, but not by 97.114. This deals only with third party traffic. What is a third party? Anyone other than the two control operators involved in the exchange. The communication in this example could be illegal under 97.112(a) which prohibits "communication for material compensation...." On the other hand, one might be able to say that no one is getting paid for communicating, in this case. The only compensation may come about as a result of the communication, which isn't the same thing. The regulations don't prohibit our talking about money.

Two stations were conducting missionary business between the U.S. and a South American country. Legal, because it's non-profit? Wrong! Non-profit or not, a good cause or not, it's still someone's regular business. ARRL business is non-profit, too, but we can't conduct it by amateur radio. (That's why we can't ARL SEVEN, by the way.)

If you want to interpret the rules strictly enough, you can make a case against almost any kind of amateur communication; but leave us not be ridiculous. In order to arrive at a reasonable interpretation, you have to consider the intent of the rule. In this case, the intent is

obviously to prevent amateurs from using the bands for the purpose of conducting business or making money. Communications that fall short of this are not likely to be prosecuted by the Commission. In our (the League's) opinion the added restrictions were unnecessary and inimical to the amateur service -- but there they are. Said the League's comment, in part: "The record of amateur conduct and performance over a period of more than 55 years is so outstanding that substantial changes in the present rules and policies are not warranted."

How to interpret 97.112 and 97.114? For the most part, bear in mind that these, like most rules, are not designed to entrap those inadvertently and very occasionally running afoul of them. They are designed to prevent the widespread development of insidious and inimical practices which can do harm to the amateur fraternity. The OOs can often catch the occasional perpetrators before the bad practices become habitual. But remember that the intent is not censorship. You can talk pretty much about what you please, including money. But you can't conduct business (yours or anybody else's) on the air, and you can't legally be compensated for any communication.

Another point to bear in mind: FCC regulations have to do only with your conduct on the air. This includes mostly transmitting, but can also involve receiving (e.g., secrecy of communications, etc.) What you do or don't do off the air may have a bearing in some other kind of law, but is not covered by FCC rules.

"Perspective on Priorities"

In the July CD Bulletin, which you should get before you get this (because we wrote it first), one of the poll questions was on the subject of trying to give the OO function some "teeth" in the form of follow-up action on chronic offenders, possibly through FCC. Also, as you may know, a current controversy involves the question of what to do when a contest occurs during an emergency. W6IUV wrote an editorial on the subject in the JPL Amateur Radio Club Newsletter, with the above title. Merv writes beautifully, and we are impelled to quote two full paragraphs of a follow-up article on this subject:

"ARRL already has an existing team of Official Observers whose job it is to advise us of signal or operating discrepancies before the FCC does. These gentlemen have to approach us diplomatically, to tell us we are doing something wrong without getting us incensed. Their discrepancy reports should be quantifiable and incontestable (i.e., not based solely on opinion). This takes maturity of judgment of the same quality needed for an 'interference patrol.' Couldn't ARRL set up their OO team, on the air, as official monitors during major emergencies, to request offending stations to cooperate, in real time? If they failed to cooperate after such an 'official' request, then the OOs would have recourse to a hot line to the FCC. The FCC could then monitor that specific situation and issue appropriate citations to the offenders. That action, of course, would disqualify their contest score; if they were not contesting, then at least it would jeopardize their license.

"It seems to us that many of those that persist in interfering are jealous of the emergency net's right to ask for a clear frequency when this privilege is denied the DXer or contestor. The OO approach could shed an independent view on the situation and make the OO team itself infinitely more valuable."

Those of you who have been reading these bulletins for some years will recall that not too long ago we approached FCC Field Engineering with a somewhat similar proposition. It was received coolly at that time, but perhaps because the program was not fully thought out and detailed. That is, the proposition was more of a "feeling out" than a specific program, and the reaction, while not wholly negative, was one of skepticism. If we were to come up with a detailed proposal, including safeguards and provision for all qualified persons (not just League members, that is), there would be a better chance for at least serious consideration. But no promises of success, even so. The question then is, do we want this? The initiative, the push to get something started, has to come from us, and that means from you. You push the headquarters, we'll develop the program and push FCC to adopt it. It can be a lot of work for no discernible result, so think carefully before you push.

Indignant Replies

Sez OO K4MZE: "The frequency of indignant replies concerning my notices has increased unbelievably since I finally got an Extra Class ticket and began spending time in that portion of the band. I feel it's a sad commentary when our older brethren have such a 'can do no wrong' attitude. I'm wondering if some system should be established among OOs whereby the calls of these fair haired guys could be passed around among ourselves? This might facilitate more efficient monitoring of them resulting in more 'deserved' notices. Any comments?"

Oh, we're always good for at least one comment, usually several. First of all, an Extra Class licensee isn't necessarily an "older brother." With the new regulations relaxing the experience requirement, this will become considerably less true. But it's true, nevertheless, that sometimes the older hams take on a "can do no wrong" attitude, especially if the notice comes from an OO with a WA or WB call. Don't let them rile you; try to have a little understanding. It's not easy for an amateur of 25 years or more of experience to take criticism from a relative newcomer.

As for setting up a system of passing calls of consistent offenders around, why not? On the other hand, why? Back in the thirties, QST used to publish calls of high quality signals and, for a time, calls of stations having poor ("prehistoric") signals. The latter listing was discontinued, probably for reasons of discretion. We're not sure, at this point, that a "black list" would be progressive. If OOs wish to pass such a list around secretly among themselves, that's one thing, but to have headquarters publish it doesn't seem much like "accentuating the positive."

Hands Across the Border

Says another OO, "Some of the worst signals I hear are from Canada. I realize that sending cards across the Canadian border can

be rather touchy, so I've done it only once. My question is this: since the OO card notification makes reference to the Canadian counterpart of FCC, should we cite these guys on a regular basis?"

We covered this in an OO Bulletin quite some time ago, in general advising against it, but leaving it to the discretion of the individual OO. Many Canadians are super-sensitive to criticism from south of the border -- just as, if the truth be known, many U.S. hams are sensitive to criticism from VE-land. This is natural enough. Let each country tend to its own amateurs, is the rationale. On the other hand, a lousy or out-of-band signal or other kind of discrepancy is a black mark on all of amateur radio, not just on the country concerned. An amateur receiving an OO notice from across the border is apt to say "our regulations aren't the same as yours and what we do on the ham bands is none of your business," or words to that effect. But is this true? Not so's you'd notice it! We're facing a worldwide conference on frequency allocations, at which all of hamdom will be under the magnifying glass, along with all other services, and what the hams in one country do or don't do is very much the concern of all of us.

So let the notices flow across the border, in both directions, but be careful! One U.S. OO always appends a little note to a card being sent to Canada saying, "I thought you might appreciate the info," or something to that effect, emphasizing the good intent of the notice beyond the printing on the card. Of one thing be very careful: stay out of political matters. Don't send notices to amateurs out of their sub-bands -- these are determined internally in each country. Don't send notices for violation of federal regulations unless you are thoroughly familiar with the regulation concerned and can cite it. Stick to clicks, chirps, rough signals, overmodulation. When in doubt, don't! Or use the long form (CD-22) and send it via headquarters (whether it's a phone operating discrepancy or not) so we can decide whether it should be forwarded. It's a touchy area.

Notice Forwarding Bureau

We want to acknowledge five volunteers to serve as agents for forwarding OO notifications to recipients. Two were received quite some time ago and have probably already been acknowledged -- W6IKW and WB6JFD. We now also have notes from W3NNC, K3NSN and WB4EKJ offering their services. Many thanks.

The status of the proposed OO Forwarding Bureau at present is quo -- that is, no change. The Communications Department at headquarters is in the throes of taking over the handling of QSL Bureaus from the Secretarial Department, and this will require several months of transition until we get this new function completely under control. Once this is accomplished, we'll reassess the possibility of incorporating the OO function into the QSL Bureau function. It may be that they can both be accomplished in the same operation, or it may be that this will not be practical in view of priority differences.

Meanwhile, continue sending your unaddressed cards to headquarters for forwarding. Cards or CD-22 notices that are not forwardable are discarded, but we do manage to find addresses for a large percentage of them. In most cases, it's just a matter of looking them up in the latest call book or call book supplement, or on a special list of new licensees, so a minimal amount of labor is involved. Reciprocal licensee addresses are usually a bit more difficult to find, and addresses of U.S. licensees who have just moved but who have not yet modified their call (thus are still signing/-something) next to impossible. Sometimes the membership file will help.

OO Meanderings

We are in receipt of copy of a 6-page letter from one OO to another containing a wealth of perspective information based on many decades of OO and amateur experience. We won't identify him, since we didn't ask his permission to quote, but we'd like to share some of this with you. We think you'll agree it's worth it:

Re "On the Air Notification." "About three months ago I modified my OO listening habits to devote more time to amateur signals out of the amateur bands. Sort of reverse Intruder Watch. With the increased use of transceiver type equipment, they do not know what is going on with regard to their fundamental frequency, much less what they are doing on other frequencies. Over the past three months I have encountered spurious signals outside the amateur bands emanating from 13 different cw stations. By two-receiver sync I located the fundamental frequencies of each and broke in on their contact to advise them of the situation. Identification was no problem. Of the 13, eight acknowledged and thanked me for the information and then proceeded to do something about it. The other five acknowledged receipt of the information but otherwise ignored it and continued merrily on their way. I did not bother to send Form 10A because, in the case of the eight who did something about their spurious signals it was not necessary, and in the case of the other five it would just have been a waste of time, effort and postage."

The Skunk at the Picnic. "I called this station by telephone, at my own expense, and came away feeling as welcome as the skunk at the picnic. He informed me, not too politely, that he was 'very busy,' that he had 'important traffic to move', but that he would check into the spurious when he 'found the time.' He continued transmitting for an additional 45 minutes, with the spurious still blaring away. Obviously, this turkey was a lot more interested in playing at Junior Western Union than he was concerned about the proper operation of his equipment."

Digital Readout and Advertising Claims. "I have read the ads you mention and although I have never had any direct experience with the product, I have to get out the old proverbial grain of salt. I can see the Madison Avenue hucksters sticking out all over the advertisement. I deplore the huckster approach but find that the only way I can cope with it is to form my own Consumer's Union and refuse to spend my money to help perpetuate it. I suppose that one of these days we will open our radio magazine and see a photo of that moron who squeezes toilet paper huckstering amateur radio equipment. It is the same old story, the dollar means more than sense.

"A while back I ran across a couple of fellows on 7 MHz comparing notes and measuring(?) each other's frequency with their newly acquired digital readout devices. The fellow using the advertised device was off by 1005 Hz according to my readings. The other, using a recently introduced digital dial transceiver, did a little better. He was only off 837 Hz.

"Recently I measured WØ --- calling CQ on 6997.431 kHz. While I was typing out the card he was calling KØ---(7001.038 kHz) telling him he was out of the band. For the next four minutes there ensued a lively discussion as to who was right and who was wrong. WØ--- maintained that he was okay because his new digital readout dial showed him he was on 7002.4 kHz. I presume these fellows think they are in compliance with Section 97.75 of the Rules."

Contest Monitoring. "This is a very fertile field but bears little fruit. One evening a few weeks ago I came across two fellows who were preparing for the DX Contest. One had removed a portion of his power supply filter capacitance to broaden his note, and the other was experimenting to see how much audio sidetone he would have to inject to give him a 'distinctive' note. There would be no point in sending a Form 10A to people like that pair."

"Reassessment of years of OO activity leaves me with the feeling that I have just been making mud-pies. Ninety percent of the rough notes, chirps, clicks, etc., that were there two years ago are still there, plus a flock of new ones. Some times I feel like Hercules must have felt when he was hacking away at the heads of the Hydra -- every time he chopped off one, two grew in its place.

"It is quite frustrating, time after time, to hear a signal which shows 30% a.c. ripple on the scope, chirps like a sick bird and clicks all over the place and, while I am typing out a card, some guy chimes in with a RST 599 report. I send out a Form 10A and what is the fellow going to believe, what the card says or the guy who tells him what he wants to hear?

"I sent a Form 10A to WN9---/Ø after he showed up on 7099.178 kHz. I have since received from him two letters and two long-distance phone calls, challenging my frequency measurement. He bases his argument on the fact that the station he was in contact with told him they both were on exactly 7100 kHz. It happened that I had also measured the other station at 7096.762 kHz. Obviously neither of them were prepared to comply with Section 97.75 of the Rules. Life is too short to argue with numbskulls like that."

Miscellany

Malicious QRM. This matter hasn't been dropped. The WCARS civil suit against two offending amateurs is still pending after an initial move by the defense to declare no jurisdiction resulted in the necessity for the plaintiff to file an amended complaint. Since amateur rules violations are under the jurisdiction of the federal government, the contention was that a state Superior Court had no jurisdiction; thus, the complaint has to be about violation of civil rights, not federal regulations, before the court can try the case.

An amended complaint is being filed and litigation continues. We understand that the interference has considerably decreased.

As to the rest of the country, the problem seems quiescent. Oh, there are occasional complaints of intentional interference, but these are sporadic and usually turn out to be isolated instances that quickly dissipate. Perhaps our "educational campaign" had a salutary effect, FCC's attitude continues to be one of support for the rights of individual amateurs as against nets not engaged in significant public service operation. Anyone who has ever listened to the antics of the individuals being sued could scarcely have doubts about their intentions, but there are a good many twists and turns to legal prosecution that often seem to obstruct the administration of justice.

While this is not specifically an OO matter (i.e., if the interference is malicious, a "friendly notice" is not apt to have much effect), it is closely enough allied to be of interest.

Consider the Intruder Watch. In the process of making observations, OOs often come across stations in the amateur bands who are not amateurs. Sometimes a considerable amount of time is spent monitoring, only to find that the object of the monitoring is of no concern to the OO program. The average OO will just drop it and monitor elsewhere.

But ARRL and FCC are interested in these "intruders" too. What or who is an intruder? Anything or anybody putting a signal in the amateur bands that is not a licensed amateur station and not authorized to share the band with amateurs. An intruder can be a foreign or U.S. station, and quite often is the former; that's why the program is administered by a different department, even though it's an operating matter. Perhaps one day the two programs will be combined.

Meanwhile, OOs should consider participating in the IW so that they can intelligently report intruders as well as observe amateurs. If as an OO you do much of the latter, you will be useful in performing the former. Write headquarters for more details.

Sideband Close to Edge. A good place to monitor is at band edges or subband edges in which sidebanders operate too close. A good example is the upper edge of 20. Most stations use u.s.b. on 20, so when they get closer to the edge than 14,347 kHz their modulation sidebands often will be outside the band. This, of course, is illegal (97.63), and FCC monitors may pick it up. Many amateurs feel that if the center of the suppressed carrier is within the band, they are operating legally. Not so. All modulation products must also be inside the band or subband. The high end of 20 and 40 are the spots to watch because these bands are crowded. Less serious but also to be considered are l.s.b. stations operating near the low subband edges on 80 and 40 meters -- that is, 3775 and 7150. Many of them get too close, and closer than 3 kHz means that almost invariably their sidebands will extend outside the band. Class I OOs take notice.

OO Qualifications. In order to maintain OO appointment in Class I or II, it is necessary for each OO to submit FMT measurements in two of the four FMTs each year. Those who do not do so, or do so and fail to fall within the allowed tolerance, are subject to cancellation or downgrading.

We suspect that many SCMs as well as OOs are lax about this, and we would like to recommend that action be taken to bring our OOs up to qualifications. FMT results appear in four issues of QST each year. In the new QST, you will find FMT writeups listed in the Table of Contents, whereas in QST prior to January, 1976, they were in the Operating News column. How do you determine if an OO makes the grade? Easy. Just look at the summary FMT listing (see p. 61-62, May '76 QST). Those OOs listed in the Honor Roll or in the grouping of "Better than 35 Parts Per Million" are qualified as Class I OO. Those listed in the "Better Than 179 Parts per million" are qualified as Class II OO. Each SCM should run an occasional check on his OOs to determine, first, that they report regularly, as required, and, second, that Class I and II OOs participate in report results and qualify in at least two FMTs per year. OOs who don't meet the qualifications should be jacked up or cancelled, at the SCM's discretion. Headquarters will not interfere with SCM prerogatives, but you are expected to do your jobs. That is, OOs are expected to maintain their qualifications and SCMs are expected to see that they do.

New Form Numbers. Yes, we are in the process of eliminating "Form" numbers entirely and replacing them with CD numbers. Sorry if this causes confusion, but we felt it about time to modernize the system which has grown "like Topsy" for fifty years or more. As of now, all CD forms will have CD-numbers. Those having "form" numbers or Operating Aid or other numbers will be assigned a different number beginning with CD. Thus, the old familiar Form 10 (& 10A) becomes form CD-213. Form 12 already had CD-22 as an alternate and future printings will contain only the latter. Form 13 also had an alternate CD-23 and will retain this while dropping the Form 13 designation.

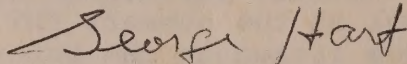
As usual, we are not throwing away forms. The current stocks, obsolete in nothing but the number, will be used up. All new printings, however, will contain only the CD numbers. We'll all get used to them in time, but it will be a nuisance at first. Form 1 now CD-210? Form 4 now CD-211? Was this necessary? Yes, we feel it was. Each headquarters department has its own forms. Let's standardize on CD numbers for the CD. No CD numbers are or will be used over again, even if a CD form becomes obsolete. There are plenty of numbers, no sense taking a chance of confusion.

Stop Me if You've Heard This One. "I haven't received a single OO notice in 40 years of operating. Therefore I know my signals are top quality." One OO points out that the chances of our present corps of OOs covering the entire field are minuscule. "W5---found that he had increased the voltage on his keying relay, which resulted in bounce click on break! He had not changed this in 25 years, but doesn't calculate the probability that any one ham will get an OO report in X years. Let us say that there are 250,000 hams in the USA, and 4000 OO reports. If one for each, it would take about 62 years to get around

to everyone! Now, if one realizes that some guys get 20 00 cards,, others might go 250 years to make up for it! So, it is absolutely meaningless for guys to say 'This is the first 00 report in 30 years!'

Oh well, as Abe Lincoln said, you can't please all the people all the time, and some people hardly ever. Hang in there, gang, and keep the ideas coming. 73.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George Hart". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

George Hart, WLNJM
Communications Manager

GH:jbp